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Vision

Safer Communities Through Successful Youth

Mission Statement

ADJC enhances public protection by assisting in the changing of delinquent thinking and behaviors of juvenile offenders committed to the Department



A Look at the Division of Programs & Institutions: Rehabilitating Youth

The Division of Programs & Institutions strives to provide high quality medical, mental health, and treatment services to the juveniles under our care in order to assist them with acquiring the necessary tools to contribute to their healthy, successful and safe transition into the community.

Each juvenile placed in a secure care facility receives rehabilitative services appropriate to the juveniles age, gender, risk, needs, abilities and committing offenses. This includes education, individual and group counseling, psychological services, health care and recreation. In addition, treatment groups and specialized housing units focus on juveniles with histories of substance use dependency, sexual offenses, or mental health needs.

The four key areas addressed by the Division of Programs and Institutions are Medical which includes all medical services, Nursing, Dental, and Pharmacy; Operations which includes direct supervision of facility Superintendents and administrative oversight of each secure care facility; Classification & Case Management which includes the Office of Classification and oversight of case management services; and Behavioral Health which includes Psychology, Psychiatry, and Specialized Programs (i.e. gender specific programming at Black Canyon School).

A number of improvements have taken place in the areas of rehabilitation for juveniles by establishing an improved method for evaluating the specific needs of each juvenile. This method, the Criminogenic and Protective Factors Assessment (CAPFA) provides a comprehensive picture of each juvenile in terms of his or her delinquent activities and beliefs, as well as positive strengths that each juvenile has, which helps with identifying the most appropriate rehabilitative course. In addition, the Continuous Case Plan (CCP) was developed and implemented to track the youth's treatment progress and follows a youth while they are on parole status. The CCP is reviewed with the youth and his Multi-Disciplinary Team every 30 days and changes are made as necessary as the youth progresses through his or her treatment and education goals.

A current area being addressed is providing specific programming for our female population. Consultative services provided by Paula Schafer, a nationally recognized expert in building competent services for girls, has been instrumental for enhancing our programming at Black Canyon School. Additionally, 'boundary training' was provided to staff working with our female population.

The Department has developed training plans to ensure all staff complete all the required in-service training, including eight hours of suicide prevention training and refresher course. Other key areas that have been developed include 24 hour nursing coverage at Adobe Mountain, Black Canyon and Catalina Mountain Schools; a newly remodeled health unit at Adobe Mountain School; completed suicide prevention modifications to all housing units at Adobe Mountain, Black Canyon and Catalina Mountain Schools; dental records have been enhanced; and New Freedom has been implemented as our core behavioral treatment program.

Profiles of Successful Youth

Mayra was committed to ADJC in April 2004 for armed robbery, probation violations and for buying alcohol. While at BCS, she graduated from the Recovery program and earned her GED. Mayra has a strong spirit despite having siblings that were in the system before. Upon release from BCS, she spent a few months at a group home in Phoenix before returning home to Tucson. She successfully completed the counseling requirements of her parole plan. She also participated in counseling sessions at the parole office as needed. Mayra soon realized that she would have to make some significant changes to stay sober and further her education goals. Mayra gained a lot of support from Sin Puertas, a girls' community drug program, meeting every Monday. Feeling good about her sobriety led Mayra to enlist the help of Voc. Rehab and she enrolled in the Medical Assistant Training program at Apollo College. Mayra graduated from Apollo College in February 2007. She earned an absolute discharge in September 2006.

What's New at ADJC

- It is a great pleasure to announce the appointment of Dr. Patrick Jeske to the position of ADJC Education Division Superintendent. The position is responsible for overseeing the educational system within the Department's correctional institutions and community school programs. Additionally, the position directs all juvenile educational services, manages the educational budget, ensures compliance with all pertinent state and federal laws, and monitors the consistency and quality of juvenile education curriculum. Dr. Jeske brings a wealth of experience to this position. Dr. Jeske holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Arizona and is certified with the Arizona Department of Education. He is an experienced administrator, teacher and counselor who has provided strong leadership throughout his career.
- A national group of expert researchers and practitioners convened on Friday, February 23, 2007 at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, to address juvenile justice professionals faced with meeting the challenge of the ever increasing numbers of youth with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders in the juvenile justice system. Co-Occurring Disorders: Charting the Direction for Success in Juvenile Justice symposium provided ways to look at how contemporary juvenile justice policy and practice can be better informed by research in developing an integrated continuum of services, across disciplines, for youth in the juvenile justice system. The symposium was sponsored by the Department of Juvenile Corrections, The Governor's Division for Substance Abuse Policy, and the Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy at Arizona State University.

Director's Corner

- The Department continues to focus on our mission of enhancing public protection by changing the delinquent thinking and behaviors of juvenile offenders committed. During 2006, the Department embarked on a major cultural change initiative. This transformation is the foundation for building a solid organization whose focus is on providing a safe and secure environment while addressing treatment, education, and rehabilitative needs for youth committed to our care. As we move forward in 2007, the Department continues to enhance its' programming by utilizing promising approaches and best practices in treatment and education. For the youth in our care to succeed, ADJC offers each youth individual tools and opportunities to aid in their success, while protecting the public.
- The fifth out of six CRIPA monitoring reports by the U.S. Department of Justice will shortly be released and can be downloaded from our public website, www.azdjic.gov. We continue to make strong progress in the five identified areas. As always, the support from the Governor's Office, Legislators and community providers is very much appreciated. I am pleased with the progress the Department has made to date, but certainly know that much needs to be accomplished. As the Department looks forward, the challenge continues to be ensuring adequate rehabilitative services are available for all youth under our care. I'm always glad to address any concerns, so don't hesitate to contact me at my office. (602) 542-4302 or by email at mbranham@azdjic.gov.